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Disposition of Captured Documents

Director of Intelligence

Chief, Intelligence
Group

5 Sept 46

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1. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM. It is proposed that the following plan of action be taken in the disposition of captured enemy documents:

a. German Documents.

That the captured German documents presently held by the Intelligence Division, War Department be retained by the Intelligence Division until present cataloguing is completed at which time final disposition will be determined, estimated date, 1 April 1947.

b. Japanese Documents.

(1) The Intelligence Division, War Department will continue participation jointly with Office of Naval Intelligence at the Washington Document Center with present strength until on or about 1 October 1946.

(2) From 1 October 1946 until 1 December 1946 the Intelligence Division, War Department will participate in the exploitation of Japanese documents at Washington Document Center at a reduced strength utilizing only officer and enlisted personnel.

(3) As of 1 December 1946 Office of Naval Intelligence will assume responsibility for the custody and maintenance of the Japanese documents held by the Washington Document Center. Intelligence Division participation will be limited to that of a small liaison section whose function will be to service the requirements of the Intelligence Division for Japanese documents.

c. It is further proposed that upon completion of the disposition of documents listed under a. and b. above, representation be made to the Central Intelligence Group to centralize captured German and Japanese documents in an agency that will provide a central repository for all captured enemy documents held by governmental agencies.

2. COORDINATION.

a. The above proposal was agreed upon in the conference held by the Chief, Intelligence Group at which the following personnel attended:

Chief, Intelligence Group; Captain C. H. Murphy, USN, Assistant

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Chief of Naval Intelligence; Commander Mark Little, USNR, Head, Washington
Document Center; [redacted] Chief, Exploitation Branch.

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b. Captain Murphy, USN, Assistant Chief of Naval Intelligence, is seeking concurrence from the Director, Office of Naval Intelligence in the proposal referred to in paragraph 1. above. Providing concurrence of both Director, Intelligence Division, War Department and Director, Office of Naval Intelligence is obtained, a joint proposal from the Army and Navy on this problem will be referred to the State War Navy Coordinating Committee for approval.

3. DISCUSSION.

a. German Documents.

The collection of captured German documents now held by the Intelligence Division is located in the basement of the Pentagon, is physically accessible to all agencies in Washington, and is handled solely by Army personnel. No change in the disposition of these documents is necessary at this time.

b. Japanese Documents.

(1) The elimination of all Army civilian personnel engaged in exploiting Japanese records held at the Washington Document Center necessitates a curtailment of the exploitation of these documents by Intelligence Division.

(2) At present the operation of Washington Document Center is under the control of Office of Naval Intelligence and the Navy is providing space necessary to house this collection.

(3) It has been informally agreed between Captain C. H. Murphy, Assistant Chief of Naval Intelligence and [redacted], Chief, Intelligence Group, Intelligence Division that Office of Naval Intelligence will retain control of the Japanese documents after 1 December 1946 and that space and necessary personnel will be provided by Office of Naval Intelligence to maintain this collection.

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(4) Should Office of Naval Intelligence take over the collection as of 1 December 1946, the Intelligence Division requirements for

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Japanese documents can be met by providing a small liaison section.

c. At present there exists no organization charged with controlling and coordinating processing and exploitation of captured enemy documents dispersed among governmental agencies, nor is there a central repository or reference library for captured documents. The need for centralized control of captured documents is necessary in order to eliminate duplication of effort by governmental agencies and provide an efficient means of exploiting German documents. By 1 December 1946 it is anticipated that the collection of captured enemy documents held by the Intelligence Division will be in such condition to permit a turnover of these documents to any centralized authority should such an authority be established.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS.

Recommend that the proposal cited in paragraph 1. be approved.

Colonel, OSC

Chief, Intelligence Group

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